17:Antropova E-4 (no date) 1964 RY4 Koryak RY4

281
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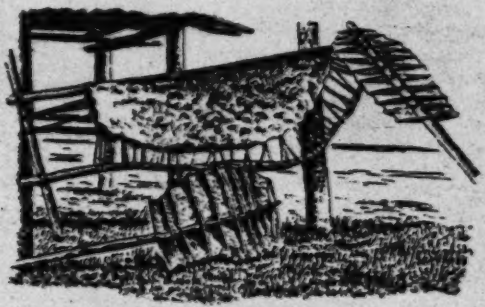

Drying skins.

342 removed, or else worn, old coverings were used. The main skeleton of the yaranga consisted of three thick poles, 3–4 meters long and inserted so as to form a large tripod. In a circle around them were set shorter vertical poles (1.5 to 2 m long) at a distance of one or two meters. These were connected at the top with horizontal beams, from which more poles ran to the top of the tripod. This frame was then covered with pelts. Light penetrated [394] into the dwelling through the smoke-opening above and through the entrance, when the skin serving as a door was thrown back.

Inside the yaranga, 3–4 canopies were attached to the horizontal beams. These canopies, made of reindeer skins, were occupied by separate families. [394] A canopy formed an enclosure of skins and was lighted by a lamp fueled with reindeer or seal fat. Inside the canopy, it was very warm, and during the day the front part was usually raised and left open.

[184] Among the Koryaks who nomadized in southern Kamchatka, yarangas usually had from 3 to 6 canopies, which were high enough to stand in without touching the ceiling. The canopies were very often cleaned and beaten out. Yarangas were built by women, and their size depended on the wealth of the inhabitants.

Most of the coastal Koryaks lived in semidugouts. The base of such a dwelling consisted of a large pit, 1–1.5 meters deep. The walls of the pit were reinforced with a paling of vertical logs, which formed an octagon. Each corner of the octagon was joined on the top, by means of a beam, with the tops of four main posts set in the center of the pit. On these beams were laid flat planks, forming the roof. The frame was covered with sod. At one side of the semidugout was a corridor, 2–3 meters long, with small doors at either end; this served as the summer entrance (or, to be more precise, [354] the spring and autumn entrance). Overhead, in the center of the roof, was a [417] square opening (0.5 × 0.5 m), which was at the same time a smoke vent, a window, and a winter entrance. Instead of a ladder, the Koryaks used a thick log, grooved to form steps. Outside on the roof, around the entrance (smoke vent), they built a funnel of poles (on the coast of Penzhina Bay), or of woven twigs (on the eastern coast), to protect the entrance from snow- ● 35 drifts. The funnel was supported by props. Inside the dwelling, low benches were built along three of the walls. These were covered with skins, and over them were hung sleeping canopies. A hearth was constructed at the wall on which the corridor opened. In winter, the corridor served as a storage room and a ventilator flue: there was a vent in its ceiling, and this was opened 342 when a fire was going in the hearth. A semidugout usually housed several 592 (2, 3 or more) related families (much like the reindeer-breeders' yaranga). [177] Some of them held as many as 30–40 inhabitants. When spring came, the Koryaks moved to tall huts, set on stilts. Later they began to use fabric tents.